BENGALURU, THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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TATA IPL PLAYOFFS

THE LAST MILE

7 PM ONWARDS

STAR SPORTS JioHotstar

TATA IPL FINAL

QUALIFIER 1 TONIGHT | ELIMINATOR 30 MAY | QUALIFIER 2 1 JUNE | FINAL 3 JUNE

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HEALTH TIP: To prevent hairfall, eat a well-balanced diet rich in iron, protein, omega-3 fatty acids, zinc, and vitamins

Regularly massaging scalp with coconut oil helps moisturises hair and prevents protein loss

BangaloreMirror
Thursday, May 29, 2025
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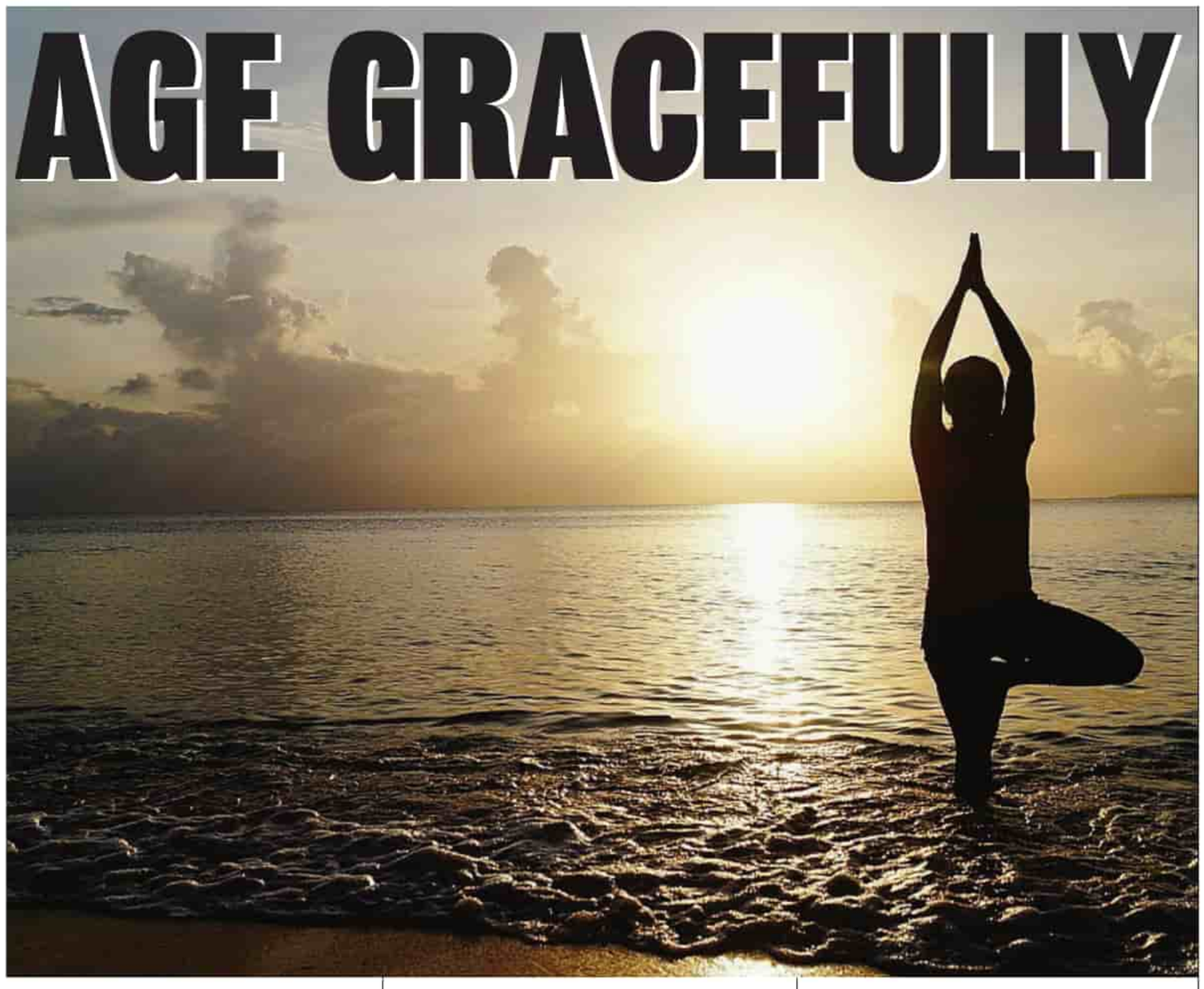
AGE GRACEFULLY



Why carrying groceries, playing sudoku could be good measures of your overall health

While ageing is inevitable, ageing well is something we can influence.

It's not just about the number of candles on your birthday cake – it's whether you've got the puff to blow them out, the balance to carry the cake and the memory to remember why you're celebrating.

As we age, our bodies change. Muscle mass shrinks, bones weaken, reaction times slow. But that doesn't mean we're all destined for a future of walking frames and daytime TV.

Ageing well isn't about staying wrinkle-free – it's about staying independent, mobile, mentally sharp and socially connected.

In gerontology, there's a saying: we want to add life to years, not just years to life. That means focusing on quality – being able to do what you love, move freely, think clearly and enjoy time with others.

There's no one-size-fits-all definition, but some simple home tests can give you a good idea. No fancy lab required – just a toothbrush, a stopwatch and a sense of humour.

Balance

One fun (and surprisingly useful) way to test your balance is to stand on one leg while brushing your teeth. If you can do this for 30 seconds or more (eyes open), that's a great sign of lower-body strength, coordination, and postural stability.

A 2022 study found that people who couldn't balance on one leg for ten seconds had an 84 per cent higher risk of death over a median follow-up of seven years compared than those who could.

As such, balance is like a superpower for healthy ageing — it reduces falls, supports mobility, and can be improved at any age.

Grip

Grip strength is more than just opening jars. It's a powerful indicator of overall health, predicting heart health, cognitive function and even mortality risk.

Research shows that for every 5kg decrease in grip strength, the risk of death from all causes rose by 16 per cent.

You can test grip strength using a hand-dynamometer (many gyms or clinics have them), or simply take note of everyday tasks – is opening bottles, carrying groceries, or using tools becoming harder?

Floor-to-feet feat

Can you sit on the floor and stand up without using your hands? This test is a true measure of your lower-body strength and flexibility, which are essential for daily activities and reducing the risk of falls. If you can do it, you're in great shape.

If it's too tough, try the sit-to-stand test. Using a chair (no arms),see how many sit-to-stand transitions you can do in 30 seconds.

This task is a good measure of lower limb function, balance and muscle strength, it can also predict people at risk of falls and cardiovascular issues.

Mental sharpness

Cognitive function can be measured in all sorts of complex ways, but some basic home tests are surprisingly telling. Try naming as many animals as you can in 30 seconds. Fewer than 12 might indicate concern; more than 18 is a good sign.

Try spelling "world" backwards or recalling a short list of three items after a few minutes. This skill is an important strategy to enhance memory in older adults.

Challenge yourself with puzzles, Sudoku, or learning a new skill. These kinds of "verbal fluency" and memory recall tests are simple ways to spot early changes in brain health – but don't panic if you blank occasionally. Everyone forgets where they left their keys sometimes.

Lifestyle matters

There's no magic bullet to ageing well – but, if one existed, it would probably be a combination of exercise, diet, sleep and social connections.

Some of the best-studied strategies include

Daily movement: walking, resistance training, swimming or tai chi keep your muscles and bones strong and support balance and heart health.

Healthy eating: a Mediterranean-style diet — rich in whole grains, fruit, vegetables, fish, olive oil and nuts – is linked to better brain and heart health.

Sleep: seven to nine hours of quality sleep support memory, immunity and mood.

Connection: some research suggests that loneliness is as harmful as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Stay engaged, join a club, volunteer, or just pick up the phone to a friend.

If you can balance on one leg while brushing your teeth, carry a bag of potatoes up the stairs, and name 20 animals under pressure, then you're doing very well. If not (yet), that's OK, these are skills you can build over time. Ageing well means taking a proactive approach to health: making small, consistent choices that lead to better mobility, clearer thinking and richer social connections down the line.

So tonight, give the one-leg toothbrush challenge a go. Your future self might thank you, especially if they still have all their teeth.

(By Catherine Norton and Grainne Hayes, University of Limerick, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Infants prone to sleep, appetite issues in long Covid: US study

Infants under two-years-old, suffering from long Covid are more likely to experience trouble sleeping, fussiness, poor appetite, stuffy nose, and cough, while children aged three to five are more likely to have a dry cough and tiredness, according to a new study in the US.

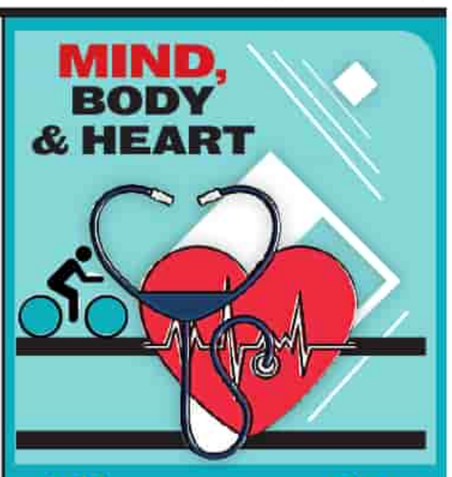
"Children with these symptoms often had worse overall health, lower quality of life, and delays in development," co-first author Tanayott Thaweethai, associate director of biostatistics research and engagement at Massachusetts General Hospital, US, said.

Long Covid refers to symptoms that persist well beyond having recovered from an acute COVID-19 infection.

The findings, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics, are the latest from the US National Institutes of Health's 'RECOVER' initiative, aimed at understanding and preventing long Covid.

An earlier analysis by the team in August 2024, found that children aged six to 11 displayed brain- and stomach-related symptoms such as headache, trouble focussing and sleeping, while teenagers experienced a loss of smell and taste, fatigue and physical pain.

Notably, teens were found to display long Covid symptoms more similar to adults -- who often report brain fog and fatigue -- than to children. This study is "important because it shows that long COVID symptoms in young children are different from those in older children and adults," Thaweethai said. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Crafting your closet

Find What You Love

In the world of fashion where trends come and go, it's truly refreshing to witness the celebration of individuality through meticulous styling choices. Rather than solely chasing after the latest trends, there's love for vintage pieces that come with their own captivating stories. These exceptional discoveries can serve as valuable additions to your wardrobe. So, instead of relentlessly pursuing fleeting trends, consider uncovering those vintage gems that genuinely elevate your unique style.

Art Of Cohesion

It's crucial to invest more time in understanding how various clothing pieces can harmoniously come together to create both cohesive and stylish outfits. Rather than impulsively purchasing standalone items that may seem tempting but don't necessarily align with your existing wardrobe, the emphasis should be on constructing a wardrobe where each element complements the others.

Smart Spending

Fashion can be an exciting pursuit. Thus, it's essential that you keep your wallet on a check and are mindful of your spending. While not many have easy access to money, it shall be a well thought out affair when you plan on buying items for your closet. Invest on high-quality staples that will give you liberty to use it often, thereby, adding more add value to your closet.

Art of Rotation

It might be tempting to get the trendy clothing pieces, often resulting in an overflowing closet with seldom-worn items. Hoarding clothes is a very bad idea and instead you should embrace the art of rotation. Maintain a routine for evaluating your wardrobe and identify items that have fallen out of regular use. Reselling or donating already used pieces can cultivate a culture of sustainable fashion practices. —Femina

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Rain check

CITY PAGE 2

Starting May 31, southwest monsoon's intensity is expected to ease significantly, especially over Bengaluru

Kick the butt

CITY PAGE 3

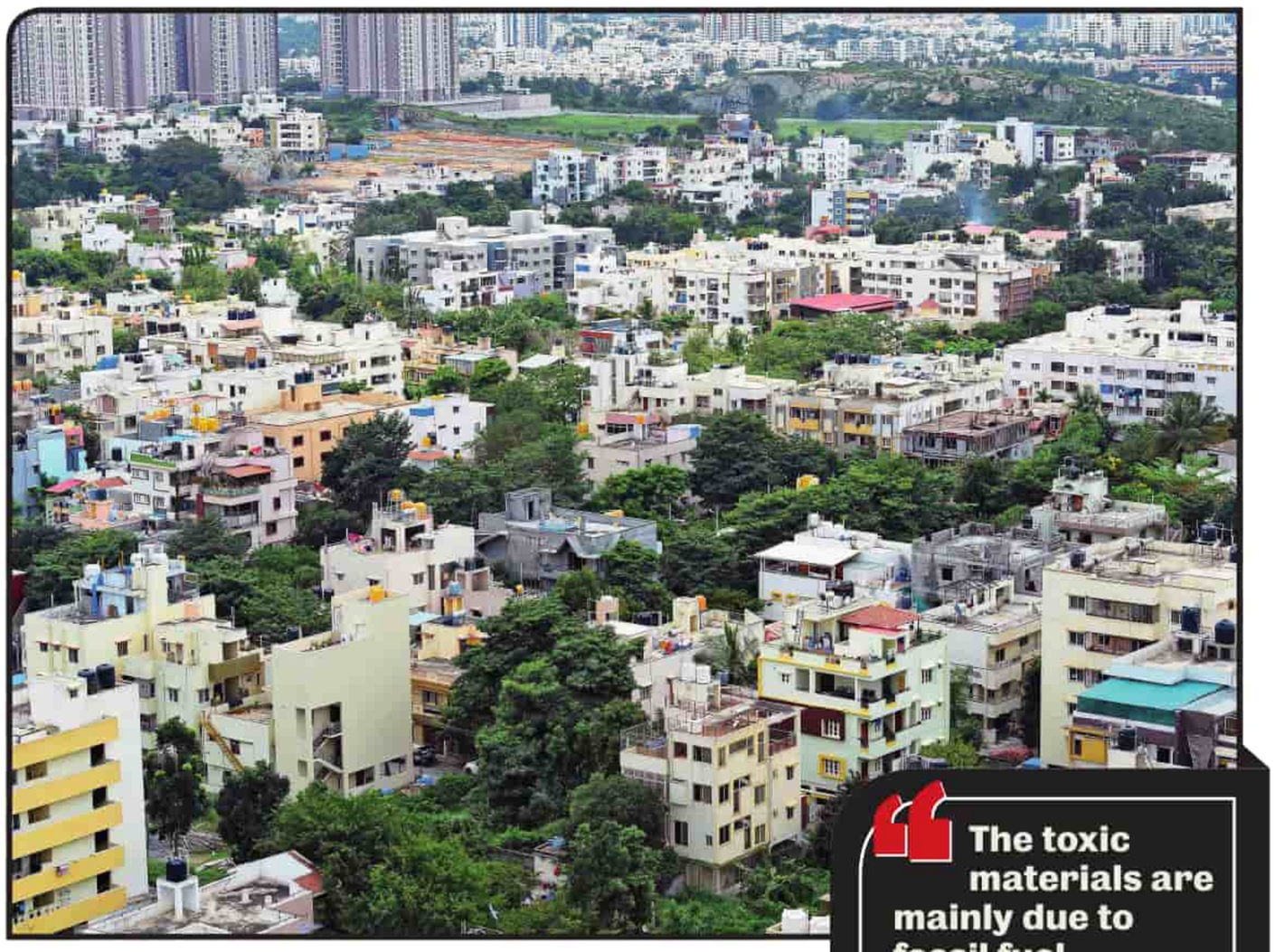
Police and BBMP launch drive to curb illegal tobacco sales, enforce licencing norms, and monitor public smoking

Study shows high PM concentration has impact on structural health of buildings; materials and structural elements in pollution hotspots more affected as compared to those in low-pollution areas

STRUCTURAL FLAW

Residents of high-rises at risk as ozone level is high in upper floors

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



High levels of particulate matter in Bengaluru's air also appear to be impacting buildings' health.

A study conducted by a group of city-based researchers shows that high particulate matter (PM) concentration has impacted the structural health of buildings in pollution hotspots in the city. Old buildings are experiencing a decrease in strength, deterioration of concrete, corrosion of steel reinforcement, diminished quality of concrete, and an increase in the depth of carbonation.

The study was conducted on buildings located at Central Silk Board Junction, in Peenya Industrial Area, and KR Market. The structural health monitoring conducted on both old and new buildings in these areas shows that building materials and structural elements are significantly more affected compared to those in low-pollution areas.

Researchers used different tests on both old and new buildings situated in the given areas to assess PM emissions and their impact on buildings.

"Compressive strength of an old building at Central Silk Board is 21 N/mm2, whereas the new building registered 32 N/mm2. This discrepancy indicates lower strength in the old building, likely due to deterioration, mainly attributed to air pollution stemming from construction activity and vehicular traffic," noted researchers.

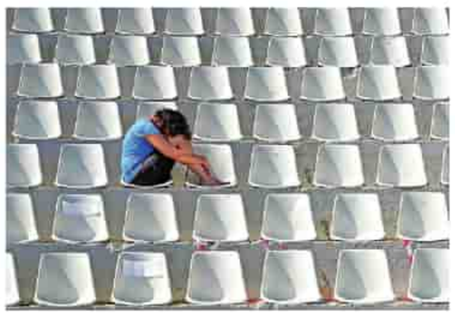
At Central Silk Board, the concrete quality of the old building was found to be much poorer. Conversely, the concrete quality of the new buildings was rated as good and excellent.

The three locations were selected due to elevated pollution levels in these areas. According to experts, factors such as vehicle exhaust, construction dust, on-road dust, industrial activities, IT companies, population density,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"The toxic materials are mainly due to fossil fuel burning and vehicular emissions. These particles, when they settle on buildings, may lead to erosion or corrosion**
>
> —Professor Gufran Beig, NIAS

GONE GIRLS



B'uru records highest child abductions in state; girls account for bigger share of missing cases

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The number of child kidnappings in Karnataka is witnessing a surge, with official data revealing that 12,790 children were kidnapped across the state between 2020 and 2024. Disturbingly, 1,334 of these children remain untraced, and authorities have yet to provide concrete answers about their whereabouts.

A majority of these cases involve girl children. Children heading out for tuition classes or other regular activities have gone missing without a trace—leaving families shattered and police struggling for leads.

Bengaluru Urban district ranks highest in the state for child abductions, while districts in southern Karnataka dominate the top 10 list, including Tumakuru, Shivamogga, Mandya, Davanagere, Hassan, Chitradurga, and Mysuru. Although both the state and central governments have constituted special task forces to trace missing children, the growing number of unsolved cases points to deeper systemic issues.

Causes

Experts attribute the crisis to several socio-economic and psychological factors. The fast-paced modern

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Quirky finds

Bangalore Dastkar Bazaar 2025 is bringing a celebration of culture, rich cuisines, mind-blowing performances, crafts and workshops, delicious food - all under one sky. **Where: Freedom Park, Gandhi Nagar; When: May 28 to June 3, 11 am to 8 pm**

02 Electrifying performance

Lala Tamar, an electrifying force on the global stage—a vocalist, dancer, and guembri player whose performances defy borders and ignite the senses, will be mesmerising the audience in a live performance. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: May 30 and 31, 9.30 pm**

03 World of wizarding

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: May 1 to June 3**

04 Childhood journey

Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre is presenting Ronak Sharma's play 'Orange Candy' that invites the audience into a world where innocence meets introspection. The play explores how childhood's forgotten wisdom can unexpectedly guide us back to ourselves. **Where: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre, JP Nagar; When: June 1, 7 pm**

Dr H Sudarshan Ballal's biography launched

Manipal Hospitals launched 'Leading With Compassion', a biography of Dr H Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospitals. Written by Stephen David, the book traces Dr Ballal's five-decade long career and leadership in healthcare. It aims to guide medical professionals and leaders worldwide by sharing the principles behind his work. The book was unveiled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently.

The biography covers Dr Ballal's early life and key career moments, offering insights into medical leadership in India and beyond. The foreword was written by Justice M N Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India, who attended the event.

Dr Ballal is a leading figure in Indian nephrology, noted for being amongst the first in the US to earn triple board certification in Internal Medicine, Nephrology, and Critical Care. He returned to India in the 1990s to establish Manipal's nephrology program, leading Karnataka's first cadaver kidney transplant and DNB nephrology program. He has received several awards, including the Rajyotsava Award and Dr BC Roy Award. Dr Ballal said, "Leadership in medicine is not about titles or technology—it's about empathy, values, and leading by example. Compassion is as important as skill. If this book inspires young doctors to serve with heart, it will have achieved its purpose." **— BMB**

Monsoon showers to hit pause for a while

Despite rainfall easing up, for next few days, Bengaluru is expected to experience generally cloudy skies, with light rainfall and steady winds

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

After a vigorous phase of rainfall, the monsoon is set to take a brief pause over Karnataka. Starting from May 31, the southwest monsoon's intensity is expected to ease significantly, especially over Bengaluru and south interior Karnataka, as well as large parts of the state's interior regions. "The southwest monsoon officially covered the entire state on Wednesday. However, rainfall activity is forecasted to drop sharply from May 31 onwards, continuing for around 6 to 7 days," said Dr N Puviarasan, scientist and Head of Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, adding that interior Karnataka will experience a noticeable decline, while coastal Karnataka will also see a reduction in rainfall intensity during this period.

In Bengaluru and the surrounding southern districts, moderate to light showers will continue intermittently, but the heavy downpours witnessed earlier will subside. South interior Karnataka districts such as Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar will see scattered rain with moderate intensity, gradually lessening towards the start of June. For the next few days, Bengaluru is expected to experience generally cloudy skies, with light rainfall and steady winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph. The maximum temperature is likely to hover around 29°C, while the minimum temperature is expected to be near 21°C.

In Bengaluru and the surrounding districts, moderate to light showers will continue intermittently, but the heavy downpours witnessed earlier is expected to subside

170 taluks prone to floods

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that a total of 170 taluks across the state have been identified as prone to floods and landslides. As a precaution, 2,296 relief and shelter centers have been designated. "Within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, 201 locations have been declared flood-affected zones," he said. He highlighted that as of May 26, 2025, 45 houses have been completely damaged, while 1,385 houses have suffered partial damage, with 99% of the financial assistance already disbursed to affected families. "Disaster management funds amounting to Rs 973.51 crore are available in the district and taluk-level PD accounts as of May 26, 2025," he said.

A total of 170 taluks across the state have been identified as prone to floods and landslides, and as a precaution, 2,296 relief and shelter centers have been designated

Demand for railway industrial park

The industry bodies in the state have demanded establishment of an industrial park for railways to encourage micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. "We demand the state government to establish an industrial park to cater to the needs of railways in the state. Major portions of the parts of railway coaches are being imported from neighbouring states," said MG Balakrishna, President of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI). He said that an industrial park that exclusively caters to the needs of railways will help to boost the MSMEs in the state.

He opined that the establishment of the industrial park for railways would not only help the MSMEs but also generate employment for thousands of unemployed youth. Demanding the government to take measures for the benefit of MSMEs in the state, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) President MG Rajagopal said that the Union Minister of State for Railway V Somanna had also expressed concern over the zero contribution to railways from the MSMEs in the state. "The establishment of the industrial park or a cluster for railways would be a great help. There are many locations, including North Karnataka, in the state for the establishment of the industrial park. I recommend the government to establish two or three industrial parks in the state," said Rajagopal.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

Don't miss out: VK Education Fair on May 31 & June 1

VK ವಿಜಯಕರ್ನಾಟಕ FAIR 2025
A PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Unsure about selecting the right college or course for engineering or medical studies? Struggling to navigate your academic options and future career choices? Fret not—Vijaya Karnataka is bringing clarity to your concerns with the VK Education Fair, scheduled for May 31 and June 1 at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bangalore University, Central College campus.

Why wait?
Dates: May 31 & June 1
Time: 9 am to 6 pm
Venue: Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bangalore University, Central College Campus, Palace Road, B'luru
For more details, contact: 99160 79232 / 96869 38983
Or scan the QR code to register.

Free entry

The two-day education expo will host over 35 reputed engineering and medical institutions, providing detailed information on courses, fee structures, and career opportunities after graduation. Officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will also be present to explain the application and seat selection process, seat allotment procedures, and counselling methods in detail. Representatives from top institutions will offer guidance on how to select government or management quota seats in both public and private colleges. Students will get a comprehensive view of how many rounds of counseling KEA will conduct this year—all under one roof.

Support for students

Experts will be available to guide students seeking educational loans, while representatives from major banks will be present to provide loan information on the spot.With AI and tech-driven careers gaining momentum, the fair will also offer insights into in-demand, skill-based courses that can lead to quicker employment. Students from arts, commerce, and science streams will also find plenty of guidance and information.

Easy to reach

The venue is accessible by both Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses, with the nearest stop being SBI Circle (old SBM Circle). Those using Namma Metro can get down at Central College Station. Ample parking space is also available.

Participation from top universities

Interestingly, top universities from Delhi, Mumbai, and Gujarat with campuses in Bengaluru are also going to participate in the event. Some of these institutions have announced that the students who have secured ranks within the top 10,000 in CET may be offered seats under the government fee structure instead of the usual management quota rates, offering students an exciting opportunity. **— Prakash VL**

Surprise sweeps target tobacco lawbreakers

Ahead of World No Tobacco Day, authorities ramp up checks; violators face fines and licence suspension

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In the lead-up to World No Tobacco Day, Bengaluru City Police and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have launched a special drive to clamp down on illegal tobacco sales, enforce licencing rules, and curb public smoking offences

As part of the drive, it has now been made mandatory for all shops and commercial establishments selling tobacco products to obtain a separate licence in addition to their regular trade licence. Officials said the move aims to bring tighter control and regulation over tobacco sales in the city.

"Smoking is often the first step towards addiction, especially among the youth. This initiative is part of our larger efforts to create a healthier environment and prevent substance abuse," said City Police Commissioner B Dayananda, during a press briefing on Wednesday.

> **Smoking is first step towards addiction. This initiative is to create a healthier environment and prevent substance abuse**
>
> –B Dayananda, commissioner

Surprise checks and raids

The police, along with BBMP marshals, have been instructed to carry out surprise checks and raids at public places, bars, restaurants, and hotels. They are closely monitoring violations such as public smoking, sale to minors, and sale near schools and colleges, which fall under restricted areas. Any violations will attract strict penalties, including seizure of stock, licence suspension, and FIRs where necessary.

BBMP officials clarified that establishments selling tobacco products must now comply with a specific set of rules and regulations tied to the new licencing framework. Failure to adhere to these norms could result in fines or legal action. "The aim is not just to penalise but also to ensure that shopkeepers are well-informed," said a senior BBMP official.

Police teams, along with BBMP marshals, will be deployed for enforcement, not only to penalise but also to ensure compliance and prevent repeat violations. The police have been directed to closely monitor the sale of tobacco products to minors and in restricted zones such as schools and colleges, and to take strict action against any violations.

Dedicated smoking zones

As part of the ongoing anti-tobacco drive, officials are placing special emphasis on ensuring compliance with regulations related to dedicated smoking zones in hospitality establishments.

Awareness programmes are currently being conducted to educate traders and commercial property owners about the newly introduced licencing requirements for selling tobacco products, as well as the legal consequences of non-compliance.

Since January 2024, the city police have booked 57,130 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and collected fines totalling 80.08 lakh, according to official data.

The special enforcement drive will continue over the coming weeks, with a focus on high-density commercial areas. Authorities have reiterated that bars and restaurants must establish marked smoking zones, as mandated by COTPA.

Establishments failing to comply will face action. Police, along with BBMP marshals, will conduct surprise checks and raids, and offenders will be fined, booked, and legal action will be initiated as per the law.

DG-IGP orders polite policing

Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG-IGP) Dr M Saleem has issued strict instructions to police personnel across the state to exercise restraint and sensitivity while conducting vehicle checks. The DGP emphasised that vehicle inspections or document verifications must not be used as a pretext to stop motorists and harass them unnecessarily on public roads. He has directed all district police chiefs that vehicles should only be stopped if traffic rule violations are witnessed directly by the officers.

"Managing traffic flow must remain the top priority. Checking documents or inspecting vehicles is secondary. Personnel must act with discretion and ensure that motorists are not subjected to inconvenience under the guise of inspection," Dr Saleem said. The DGP further clarified that only in specific cases, such as drunk driving, dangerous stunts, or driving in the wrong direction on one-way roads, should motorists be stopped and documents checked.

"While there must be no compromise in enforcing traffic laws against violators, police must avoid excessive actions. Personnel should not hide in secluded corners and suddenly emerge to stop vehicles, nor should they chase motorists or snatch vehicle keys. Such acts are unacceptable," Dr Saleem said. He added that district police heads have been instructed to initiate disciplinary action against officers who engage in such overreach or fail to follow these new guidelines.

–BMB

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LL.M.

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B.Sc. - Multimedia (VFX / SFX / Gaming)

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B.Sc. - Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT)
B.Sc. - Cardiac Care Technology (CCT)
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B.Sc. - Medical Imaging Technology (MIT)
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Monsoon misery for stray dogs sparks activist outcry

BBMP urged to follow AWBI guidelines and create safe, dry shelters for stray dogs, while raising awareness among gated communities and resident associations

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Animal activists and pet lovers have raised concerns about the plight of street dogs during the monsoon in Bengaluru. They are urging the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department to take steps to help stray dogs by creating awareness among apartment residents' welfare associations about the importance of compassion during the rainy season.

They want BBMP to implement the Animal Welfare Board of India's (AWBI) advisory, which recommends setting up temporary shelters using bamboo, dry leaves, or trampoline sheets. These shelters should be placed on higher ground, be well-ventilated, and located in safe areas where stray animals can find refuge during heavy rains or floods. "The same should be allocated away from pathways, parks or places where children or elderly people are frequently present, as well as staircases and parking lots where animals are more prone to accidents," the AWBI letter stated.

The AWBI has also suggested that local authorities encourage volunteers to help in providing shelter and monitoring the health of stray animals. "Also, encourage community members to allow stray animals to take shelter in their porches, garages, or any other covered space, if available," the letter added.

Despite these suggestions, many dog feeders report facing hostility from residents' welfare associations for feeding strays on or near residential premises.

Stray safety: urgent call for monsoon shelters

Animal activist Arun Prasad said, "The local bodies, including the BBMP, have funds for the welfare of stray dogs and animals. I want the BBMP to utilise those funds for providing shelter to the stray dogs in the city and also create awareness among the community members, especially those residing at residential apartment complexes and gated communities."

Minu Singh, a dog feeder, said she has encountered frequent problems from gated communities and residents' associations in Bellandur. "I want the BBMP authorities to provide protection to the dog feeders and also take measures to create awareness among the members of apartment residents' associations and gated community members on the importance of providing shelter at their premises," she said.

Nandita Subbarao, another activist, pointed out the lack of enforcement. "Of course, it holds good all the time. It is a welcome suggestion, but the problem is that it is only advisory—something that people do not feel obligated to follow. The point 1 says 'away from pathways, parks…'—then it leaves no spot at all. It would help if they specified what can be used instead of what cannot," she said.

Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, added, "It should be mandatory for every Municipality to make arrangements for safe spaces in every ward and neighbourhood through the RWAs and Office Space Owners' Associations, for the refuge of homeless and free-roaming animals, and for provision of food, medicine and water." However, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry) clarified that the BBMP currently has no plans to provide shelters. "We will take measures to create awareness among the community members and apartment residents' welfare associations on the importance of allowing stray dogs at their premises during flooding or heavy rain," he said.

> **"We will take measures to create awareness among community members and apartment welfare associations on the importance of allowing stray dogs during heavy rain**
> – BBMP Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry)

'Focus on completion of existing projects'

MLA S Suresh Kumar urges government to prioritse infrastructure completion in existing layouts, address farmer compensation, and reconsider new housing developments amid environmental concerns

With BDA planning to proceed with the second phase of the Shivarama Karanth layout, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar has written to CM Siddaramaiah asking the government to focus on providing basic infrastructure and completing development in existing layouts before starting construction of new housing projects. In his letter, the MLA noted that before the distribution of 30,000 houses in the first phase is completed, survey work for the second phase has already begun. The first phase involved construction of 30,000 houses over approximately 3,546 acres. Contractors have been given an additional three months to complete the remaining work. Sources from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) informed that the legal case related to the housing project is still pending in court. Once the court orders are issued, applications for house allocation will be invited, with 10,000 to 12,000 houses expected to be distributed to the public.

Bangalore Mirror
BDA plans expansion of Karanth Layout project
Despite unfinished works in current phase, BDA initiates steps to acquire more land across Yelahanka and Bengaluru North taluks

Bangalore Mirror had reported about BDA expansion plans of Shivaram Karanth layout

The MLA highlighted that the BDA has acquired land from farmers not only for the Shivarama Karanth layout but also for Anjanapura, S M V Layout, Kempegowda Layout, and Arkavati Layout. However, many farmers have yet to receive proper compensation, causing daily visits to BDA offices in search of redress. This issue has become a significant challenge for the BDA administration.

Furthermore, Suresh Kumar pointed out that existing layouts in Bengaluru are still incomplete, lacking basic infrastructure, which prevents house owners from constructing homes. Consequently, 30 to 40 percent of houses in these layouts remain vacant. In such a situation, he questioned the need for developing new layouts.

He warned that the ongoing survey work for the new phase is leading to the destruction of millions of trees. The MLA expressed concern over the conversion of agricultural land, which was protected under the Bengaluru Revised Master Plan-2015 and zoning regulations, into residential and industrial zones. This reduction in agricultural land combined with increasing vehicle density has worsened air pollution, potentially leading to a future where clean air may come at a cost. He asked for sensitivity regarding these issues. He questioned the justification for building new layouts when existing ones lack essential infrastructure. He also doubted whether the BDA under the current government has the capacity to manage and maintain Bengaluru's housing projects effectively. — BMB

DOCUMENT LOST

The Original Hakku Patra issued by the Bangalore South Taluk Tahsildar on 28-01-2004 regarding Site Number 131 measuring 30x40 feet allotted to Munikrishna and Shakuntalamma belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Survey number 20 of Bangalore South Taluk, Chikkathoguru Village has lapsed.

Complaint already registered in electronic city police station.

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Transit jam

Kadirenahalli

Kadirenahalli circle faces constant traffic congestion, worsened by the current placement of the bus stop. Authorities are urged to shift it or create a designated bay within the nearby ground to ease vehicle movement.

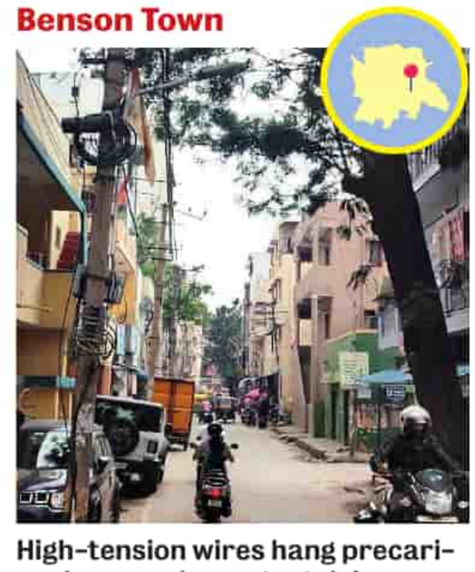
Pothole peril

Frazer Town

Large potholes on Stephens Road, Frazer Town, are turning hazardous, especially during rains. Urgent resurfacing is needed to avoid accidents and ensure safer commutes.

Wire danger

Benson Town



High-tension wires hang precariously over a busy stretch in Chinnappa Garden, Benson Town, frequently used by schoolchildren, two-wheelers, and cars. This poses a serious safety risk and demands immediate action from BESCOM and civic authorities.

Man held with MDMA

A foreign national was arrested by Amruthahalli Police for allegedly peddling banned MDMA crystals to youths in the city. Acting on a tip-off received on May 20, police nabbed the accused near a vacant lot behind North Hills School in Dasarahalli. Officers seized 3 kg of MDMA crystals from his possession, valued at ₹3 crore.

Acting on information from a source, police rushed to the spot and caught the suspect red-handed. During interrogation, the accused admitted to selling the banned substance for profit. Subsequently, a case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Police investigations revealed that the accused had arrived in Bengaluru in 2023 in search of work. He confessed to purchasing the MDMA from another foreigner in Kammanahalli, at a low price and reselling it at a higher rate. **–BMB**

IPL ticket scalpers nabbed

Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested two individuals during the IPL season, including an IIT graduate employed at a tech firm, for illegally selling tickets at exorbitant rates.

The accused, a 23-year-old IIT graduate from Telangana, was employed at a private tech company near Bellandur. Despite drawing a monthly salary of over ₹1 lakh, he was caught selling IPL match tickets worth ₹1,200 each for up to ₹6,000 during the RCB vs KKR clash held on May 17. Acting on a tip-off, the CCB Special Investigation Team posed as buyers and nabbed Vamsi redhanded. Police seized 10 tickets and a mobile phone from him. A case has been registered at the Bellandur Police Station.

In a separate operation, police arrested Sheikh Ahmed, who was also found selling IPL tickets on the footpath of Commercial Street. He too was offering ₹1,200 tickets at ₹6,000 each. Police recovered another 10 tickets and two mobile phones from his possession. **–BMB**

Vehicle towing system to return

The city police will soon reintroduce the vehicle towing system, this time using department-owned vehicles and staff, announced Police Commissioner B Dayananda at a press briefing on Wednesday.

The move is part of broader efforts to decongest traffic and tackle the issue of haphazard parking, which often leads to snarls on busy roads.

Unlike the earlier model that involved private contractors, the towing operations will now be handled entirely by police personnel, under revised guidelines. "This shift aims to address the concerns that had surfaced during the previous system," the Commissioner said. **–BMB**

Police track and break theft chains

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru City police have cracked four theft cases across the city, arresting several suspects and recovering stolen gold, cash, and vehicles valued at over ₹90 lakh.

Thief, minor accomplice held

A serial burglar was arrested on April 20 near Bhash Company, Parappana Agrahara, following a complaint filed on March 30 at Begur Police Station. The complainant, a resident of Vishwapriya Layout, reported a break-in and theft after returning home from a visit. Police recovered 53g of gold ornaments and three two-wheelers. The accused, who operated across Begur, Madiwala, Hulimavu, and Halasuru Gate areas with a juvenile accomplice, pawned stolen gold at shops in Cottonpet. He was remanded to 12-day police custody on April 21. His juvenile accomplice was detained on May 3 near Lalbagh. Six cases were solved with the arrests.

Gold, silver loot recovered

Electronic City Police arrested a man on May 13 in Mailasandra for a burglary reported on May 7 by a Bettadasanapura resident. The victim saw the burglar fleeing after stealing 49g of gold, 700g of silver, and ₹2,000. Police recovered 188g of gold, 550g of silver, ₹1,500 cash, and a two-wheeler used in the crime. The accused, working with a juvenile, confessed during interrogation. The minor was taken into custody on May 19. Silver items and cash were hidden in the vehicle. Nine burglary cases across Electronic City and Hebbagodi limits were resolved.

Three held in AECS Layout burglary

A burglary at a home in AECS Layout came to light when the residents returned from Chennai on March 6 to find 550g of gold jewellery and ₹3 lakh in cash missing. HAL Police have launched an investigation. A suspect was caught on May 17 in Shikaripalya. He led police to two accomplices in Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu, who were arrested the next day. Police recovered 278g of gold from Thiruvarur, 172g from Pondicherry, and 100g of gold bars from the main accused's home. The trio confessed and were remanded to judicial custody. The total recovery value was estimated at ₹53 lakh.

Grandson robs family home

Nandini Layout Police arrested a man near Sumanahalli Bridge on May 9 for stealing cash and jewellery from his grandparents' home in Vijayananda Nagar. The theft came to light on May 6, when the family returned from a trip to Amritsar and discovered ₹10 lakh in cash and 125g of gold missing. The accused, their grandson, had made a duplicate key to gain entry. Police recovered ₹46,800 initially, followed by ₹8.97 lakh cash, 81g of gold jewellery, a two-wheeler, and fake keys. He had sold the gold in Mathikere. He was remanded to judicial custody on May 15. The total recovery amounted to ₹17.44 lakh.

BDA acquisition process invalidated

IN HIGH COURT

Over 300 families who purchased plots in Banashankari 6th Stage approximately 20 years ago are distressed upon discovering that the Karnataka High Court has invalidated the BDA's land acquisition process. The site owners believe the Bangalore Development Authority did not present an adequate legal defence and failed to notify them about the legal proceedings.

Several plot owners became aware of the court decision whilst preparing for construction, particularly after the BWSSB initiated the Cauvery water supply infrastructure in the area. They were subsequently denied access to their properties due to the court order. The original landowners contested the acquisition's legitimacy in Writ Petition No 16865 of 2022, stating the process had either expired or been discontinued. They referenced a 2010 chief ministerial directive instructing the BDA to cease acquisition. **–BMB**

Court orders accurate data

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the State government to collect accurate data regarding elected municipal council members and verify the availability of candidates from various caste categories before establishing reservation for presidential and vice-presidential positions in these councils.

The court emphasised that this procedure is crucial to prevent presidential and vice-presidential positions from remaining unfilled due to the absence of candidates from designated caste categories.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj provided this directive after observing that five town municipalities could not conduct elections for president/vice-president positions due to the absence of female elected members from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.

The court noted that the unavailability of SC, ST women members emerged because reservations for presidential and vice-presidential positions in 117 town municipal councils were determined without proper data collection of elected council members. This matter came to light during the proceedings of petitions filed by Veena M from Annigeri, Dharwad district and Altaf Kharori Mohiddin from Bhatkal. **–BMB**

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12,000+ kids went missing in 4 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

world is drawing children toward the outside world at younger ages. Poverty, teenage love affairs, academic pressure, and emotional instability are pushing some children to run away from home. Many fall prey to criminal networks involved in human trafficking, child labour, organ trade, prostitution, and forced begging. There are strong suspicions that a large trafficking network may be operating behind these disappearances.

Top 3 Districts (2020–2024)

Bengaluru Urban	4,427
Bengaluru Rural	963
Tumakuru	577

Girls at greater risk

Of the total reported cases, 9,261 are girl children, with 972 still unaccounted for. Among boys, 3,529 were reported missing, and 362 remain untraced. The state's overall percentage of untraced children stands at 10.43%.

Coordinated action

Child rights advocates stress on the need for multi-departmental coordination to protect children and track down missing cases effectively. "As per the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, protecting children is a paramount duty. Every child deserves a safe, respectful life within the family and society until the age of 18. The government and related departments must treat these cases with the seriousness they deserve," said a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. He urged society to empathise with affected families and demanded stronger institutional action to prevent further tragedies.

Toxic fumes chip away at buildings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vehicular traffic, proximity to national highways, metro and flyover construction, waste burning, transportation emissions, fossil fuel combustion, demolition activities, etc, contribute to high pollution.

"The concentration of PM2.5 in Bengaluru's hotspots is very high. Deterioration of concrete or any other material depends on the chemical composition of PM2.5, which is very harmful in the case of Bengaluru. The toxic materials are mainly due to fossil fuel burning and vehicular emissions. These particles, when they settle on buildings, may lead to erosion or corrosion. However, the extent of damage has to be ascertained," said Professor Gufran Beig, Chair at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

Experts underline that the pollution in hotspots is much more harmful to the residents of these buildings. Those living in high-rise buildings are at high risk due to toxic levels of ozone gas.

"Although particulate matter disperses before it can reach the upper floors of high-rise buildings, the ozone level is high. This ozone is formed due to the chemical reaction of carbon monoxide, NOx, and volatile compounds from anthropogenic factors, led by vehicular pollution," added Beig.

The study was conducted by a group of researchers from Manipal Institute of Technology in Bengaluru, Manipal Academy of Higher Education in Manipal, Nagarjuna College of Engineering and Technology in Bengaluru, and an independent researcher.

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I, Harshal Kalra D/o Mahender Kumar, residing No.7/4, 1st Cross Road, Vivekananda Nagar have changed my name to Harshal Mahender Kalra for all future purposes vide affidavit dt 27th May 2025 sworn before notary: K.N. RAMADEVI B'lore.

I, ANCHAL BAFNA R/o Flat.402, 4th flr, Raghukul Apt, 5th Main, Sameerpura Main, Raghavendra colony, KG Nagar, Bengaluru 560019 have changed my name to ANCHAL VIKRAM BAFNA I shall called by this name for all purpose

I, Mukhtar Syed Khader Mohideen R/o, Flat No P 001 5th Floor Afra Classic Apartment No 33 Robertson Road Frazer Town Bangalore 560005, Have Changed My Name From Mukhtar Syed Khader Mohideen to Mukhtar Ahmed for All Purposes.

I, Sudharashan Shetty S/o Anand Shetty R/o 61 Niyati Hill ,1st Main Maruti Nagar, J P Nagar,B'luru 560078 have cha -nged my name to Sudarshan Shetty for all purposes

I, Naseema Banu Kallu Sadarahalli W/o Mujahid R/o A959,4th Cross, Masjide, AQSA Street Chamundipura ,3rd phase B'lore-560058 have chan - ged my name to Naseema Banu

I Usharani Kadirisani W/O, Devendra Venkata Sudhakar Changal R/o Flat No 401a 4c 426 Sn Satya Enclave, Ombr Layout Banaswadi, Bengaluru - 560043 have changed my name to Usha Changal.

I, ADARSHA GOWDA B S, S/o Shankar, R/at No: 11, 18th Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Have changed to ADARSH GOWDA B S. vide Affdt. Dtd. 09.05.2025 Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja E. Bangalore

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Without security, citizens wary about late evening walks in park

Helpline launched as residents demand better lighting, guards, and surveillance in city parks

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents raise serious safety concerns as BBMP parks stay open till 10 pm

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has created a hotline for citizens to report if they are denied entry to BBMP parks during designated hours, between 5 am and 10 pm.

According to the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management Cell of the BBMP, this initiative follows numerous complaints from residents about parks being locked during official hours, restricting access to public spaces meant for recreation and fitness.

To address these concerns, the BBMP has set up multiple channels for lodging complaints. Citizens can reach out through the BBMP helpline at 1533, send a WhatsApp message to 9480685700, or use the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application. Email submissions are also accepted. Officials have encouraged complainants to include photographic evidence, when possible, to support their grievances.

While the move is aimed at enforcing standard park hours, it has raised fresh concerns among regular park users about safety during the late evening hours. Many believe that without sufficient security infrastructure, the parks could become vulnerable to misuse.

"I live in Nagarbhavi and visit several BBMP parks in the area. None of them have adequate security arrangements to stay open until 10 pm. There are several dark patches that make these parks unsafe," said a senior citizen.

> **"BBMP parks lack adequate security for 10 pm opening; many dark spots will make them a haven for anti-social elements, raising safety concerns**
>
> –Senior citizen

A regular visitor to Zen Park in the same area shared a similar sentiment. "Zen Park is spread out over a large area but is manned by only one security guard. We've seen groups of men consuming alcohol inside. One guard alone cannot handle such issues," the resident noted.

In June last year, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced revised park timings across Bengaluru, directing that all parks remain open from 5 am to 10 pm. However, reports indicate that many parks continued to operate on older schedules, prompting frustration among citizens and leading to the BBMP's recent action.

Following the complaints, the Special Commissioner for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management appealed to the public last week to report any denial of entry at the city's 1,287 BBMP parks. A circular clearly stated that no BBMP park can refuse entry during the designated hours.

Despite this directive, residents remain concerned about safety. They are demanding not just compliance, but improvements—such as more security personnel, better lighting, and CCTV installations.

"Poor lighting increases safety risks. Parks in Koramangala have several dark spots that need urgent attention," said Janet SK Yegneswaran, a senior citizen.

Similar security issues have also been raised by residents in Indiranagar and other parts of the city.

Sub-registrar offices will stay open in weekends

In a move aimed at improving public convenience, the Karnataka state government has directed that one Sub-Registrar Office in each district will remain operational on 2nd and 4th Saturdays as well as all Sundays. This initiative will take effect from June 1, with 35 designated offices across the state functioning on these days. In Bengaluru, the offices at Basavanagudi, Gandhinagar, Jayanagar, Rajajinagar, and Shivajinagar will remain open. Offices in Devanahalli, Chitradurga, Bagepalli, Davanagere, and Ramanagara will also operate on Sundays. Officials said the move aims to reduce weekday crowds and ease property registration and documentation for citizens. **–BMB**

Reddy moved to Parappana Agrahara jail

Former Karnataka minister G Janardhana Reddy, who was earlier under judicial custody in connection with an illegal mining case in Hyderabad, has been transferred to Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru.

Sources said the transfer was necessitated as Reddy is required to appear before the Special Court for Elected Representatives in Bengaluru for hearings scheduled on June 4, 5, and 6. Acting on a body warrant and with due permission from the CBI Special Court in Hyderabad, Karnataka police brought him to the state capital.

On arrival, Reddy was formally produced before the court, following legal procedures, and was subsequently lodged at Parappana Agrahara Jail.

Reddy, who had previously attended court proceedings as an MLA, is now facing conviction in the Obulapuram illegal mining case. The CBI Special Court in Hyderabad found him guilty, following which he was taken into custody.

Officials confirmed that once the scheduled court proceedings in Bengaluru are concluded, Reddy will be sent back to the Hyderabad prison where he had been held since his conviction. **–BMB**

Fewer CET takers, more engineering seats

Drop in eligible candidates opens up wider college choices for Karnataka CET 2025 aspirants

More engineering seats available due to college intake expansion

Engineering aspirants appearing for admissions through the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2025 can expect greater seat availability and more choices this year. The key reason: a notable drop in the number of eligible candidates compared to the previous year.

According to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), 2.75 lakh students have qualified in CET 2025, down from 3.10 lakh in 2024 a decrease of 35,000 candidates. Specifically for engineering, 2.62 lakh students are eligible this year, compared to 2.74 lakh last year, marking a drop of 12,400 candidates.

Greater choice for students

This decline, combined with an anticipated increase in seat intake by engineering colleges, is expected to benefit students. Counselling rounds are likely to offer more choices and reduced competition for preferred courses and institutions. In 2024, out of 79,907 available engineering seats, 66,254 were filled. The seat count is expected to rise further this year as several colleges have expanded their intake.

KEA officials said one of the major reasons for the fall in the number of CET aspirants is the growing shift of top-performing students toward national-level entrance exams like JEE and NEET. This trend has reduced the number of students appearing for CET, especially for engineering streams.

No entrance test

Another contributing factor is the reduced registration for CET despite high pass rates in the second PUC. In 2025, about 4.68 lakh students cleared the 2nd PUC Annual Exam-1, including 2.31 lakh from the science stream. However, a significant number of them chose not to appear for CET, further shrinking the eligible candidate pool.

No entrance test

In a related development, KEA has decided not to conduct PG-CET 2025 entrance exams for five ME/MTech courses, including Environmental Engineering, Polymer Science, and Textile Technology, due to low registration. Admissions will be based on merit lists derived from qualifying degree marks, pending government approval.

Entrance exams for Civil Engineering, Mechanical Science, and Electrical Science will be held on May 31, while the Computer Science Engineering test will be conducted online on June 2. **–BMB**

Chai-Time

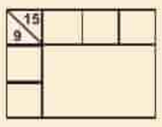
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$4\sqrt{2}+4-4(4-(4/4)) = ?$

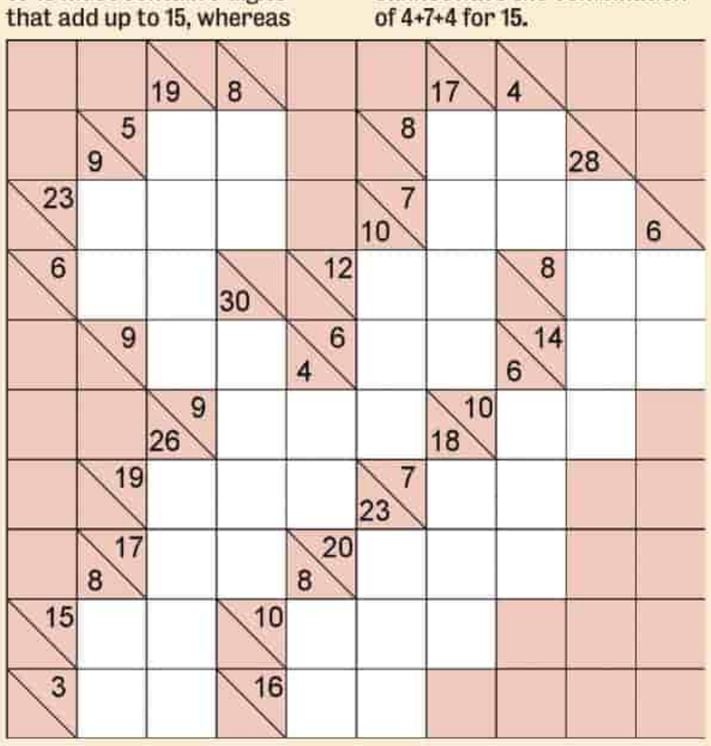
BangaloreMirror | 8
Thursday, May 29, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

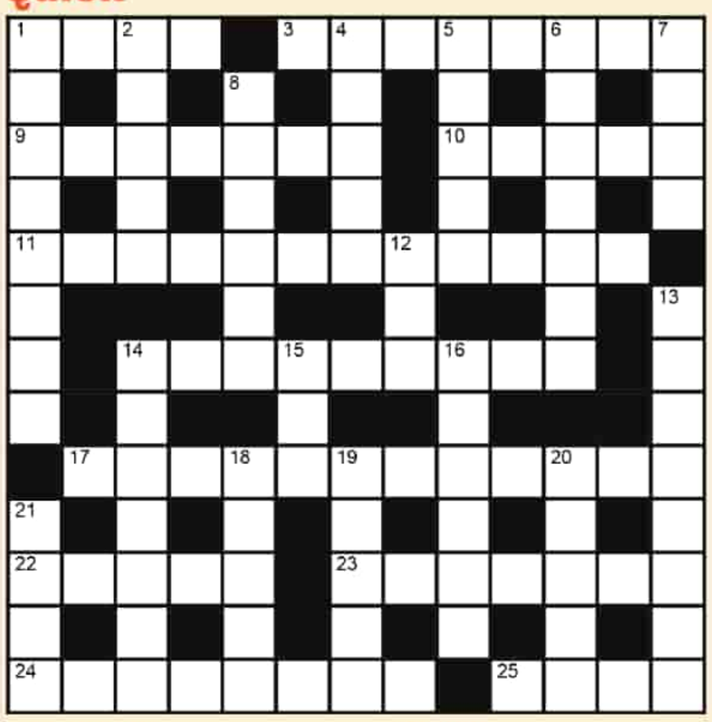
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 End of sleeve (4)
3 Reports or explanations (8)
9 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
10 Harass (5)
11 Foreign soldiers (12)
14 Assuredly (9)
17 Information (12)
22 Port on the Bay of Acre (5)
23 Distinguished (7)
24 Capsize (8)
25 Conspire (4)

DOWN

1 They repair shoes (8)
2 Threw or hurled ? (5)
4 Series of links (5)
5 A deer-like animal, partially striped like a giraffe (5)
6 Religious house (7)
7 River of Hades (4)
8 Strictness (6)
12 Bird: prefix (3)
13 Orderly, consistent (8)
14 To limit (7)
15 The sesame plant (3)
16 Nullify (6)
18 Make into law (5)
19 Of the moon (5)
20 Peace Prize, should we say ? (5)
21 Go away! (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS P

EQZEJQ GBZ NTZG JPXXJQ ROQ SWSRJJK YOQRX XRJNQOW, GBPJQ AQT GBZ NTZG ASFB WRK JPXXJQ.

Linemaro

I'm no organ donor, but I'd be happy to give you my heart

Mindchow

One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching

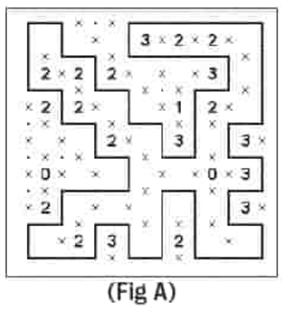
Joke of the day

The Americans are a funny lot; they drink whiskey to keep them warm, then they put ice in it to make it cool; then they put some sugar in it to make it sweet and then they put a slice of lemon in it to make it sour; then they say, "Here's to you" and drink it themselves

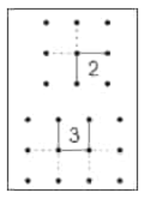
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

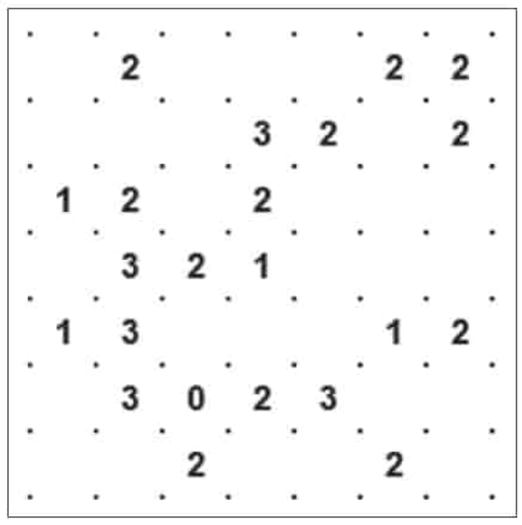


(Fig B) Not Allowed

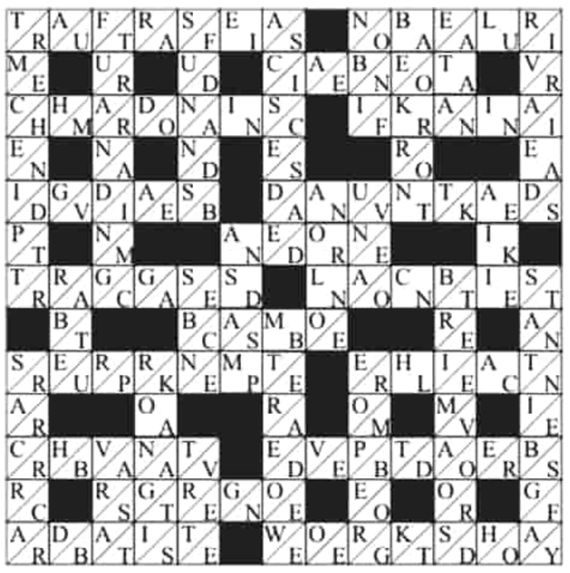
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



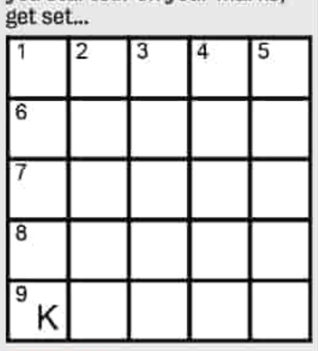
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

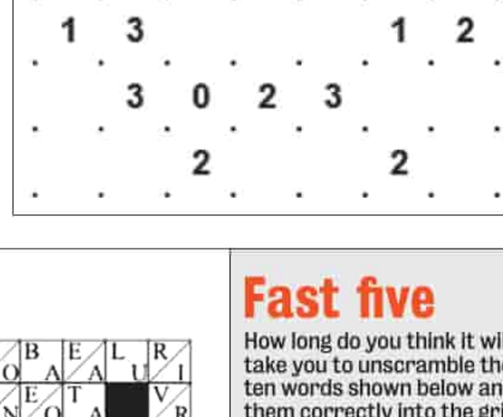
1 If FLC; 6 Clear; 7 Unite; 8 Annas; 9 K list

DOWN

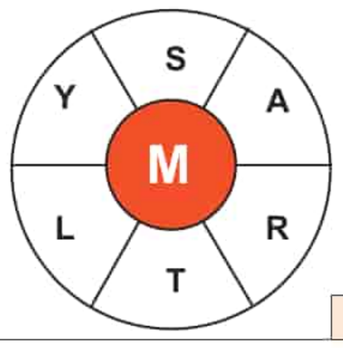
1 N luck; 2 Liana; 3 I talc; 4 It fen; 5 Serfs

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3			4			8	
	2		3		9		7	
9			8		1			4
6	4						1	7
		9				6		
8	5						2	9
7			1		6			3
	6		7		4		5	
	9			3			4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 20

2 3 7 8

Medium

= 2

8 7 5 4

Hard

= 45

3 8 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

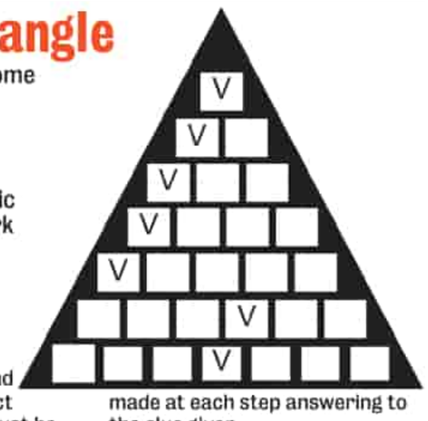
Differences: 1. Counter is wider. 2. Book cover is different. 3. Man is standing straighter. 4. Hat is reversed. 5. Handle is added to pot. 6. Window in door is larger.

Riddler

Zona, the nutty professor, gathered the class one day for an experiment. Zona began, "I have in my hands a rock and a piece of wood. I am going to place them in this beaker of mysterious liquid, and you may observe what happens." Surprisingly, the rock floated and the wood sank! He turned to the class and said, "My question is: What is this mysterious liquid in the beaker?" Do you know the answer?

Alpha triangle

1 Five in ancient Rome
2 Virginia, abbr.
3 By way of
4 Glass container
5 Necessary
6 European republic
7 Burdensome work



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

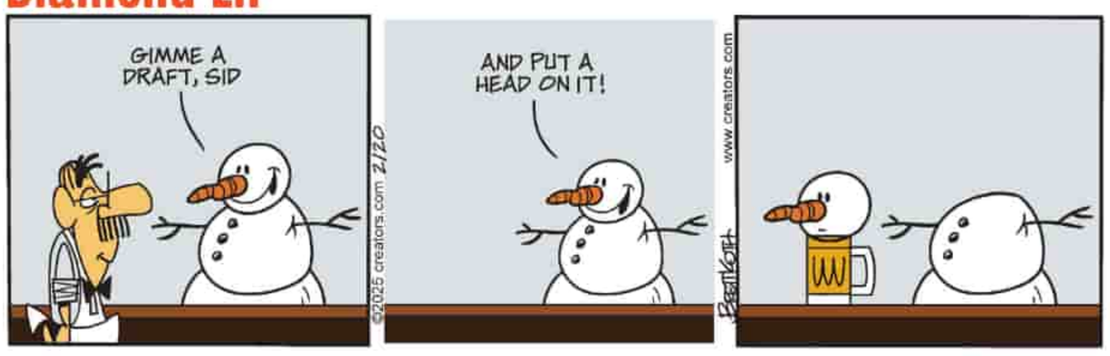
COMICS

Popeye

ARF! ARF! BEIN' INVISIBLE AIN'T HURT ME APPETITE!
IT MUS' BE TIME FER LUNCH!
HAVE YOU SEEN POPEYE ?
NO! HE MUST HAVE GONE SAILIN'!
SWELL!
THANK GOODNESS! WE WON'T HAVE TO EAT SPINACH FOR LUNCH!
8-31
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

WHOA. COOL...
VROOM!!
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA TEACH ME HOW TO DRIVE, DAD?
YOUR MOTHER WOULD KILL ME IF I WERE TO PUT YOU BEHIND A STEERING WHEEL AT YOUR HEIGHT. AND I GUESS AT YOUR AGE, TOO.
DO NOT LET OUR ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD DRIVE!!
I'M NOT!!
MAYBE WHEN YOU'RE FOURTEEN.
JOHN!!
I MEAN THE LEGALLY MANDATED SIXTEEN.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may consider relocating, but it's advisable to postpone any decisions related to migration for now. Avoid making new business investments. By evening, the situation may improve. With the guidance of an elder, you might be able to bring things under control.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your patience is commendable today. Meditation may enhance your concentration and speed up your work. Support from subordinates will help you complete projects ahead of schedule. A short work-related trip is likely, and you may meet an influential person who could positively impact your business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may spend money on artistic or creative items to renovate your home, enhancing your social image. Implementing new plans in a family business may bring future financial gains. Expect to be busy with family or social gatherings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
It's a positive day for you. You're likely to feel energetic and healthy, and you may enjoy your work. However, try to avoid being too blunt. Arguments over trivial matters may cause family disputes. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities. Love birds should avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon is not in your favor today. You may feel unhappy, impatient, and disengaged. You could struggle to focus and fail to complete tasks. It's important to stay grounded and try not to detach from responsibilities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You are blessed by the Moon today. Work-related pressure may ease, and your income could begin to show profit. Long-term investments may prove beneficial. An overseas work opportunity might arise, offering financial advantages. Students may receive good academic news, and singles might meet a potential partner.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
With the Moon's blessing, your professional performance may shine today. You can implement business strategies effectively with your team's support. Intellectual and financial investments may start yielding returns, boosting your confidence. Your wisdom will guide you to success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Spiritual energy may uplift you today. Your mindset is likely to be positive, and you're drawn to spiritual or religious pursuits. A visit to a sacred place or interest in occult science may deepen. Keep your thoughts private unless you're with someone who truly understands your feelings.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may feel nervous and restless today. Seeking peace, you could be drawn to the occult. Follow your intuition before making decisions. You may gain deep insights into a subject or make progress in research. Chanting or spiritual practices can bring clarity.

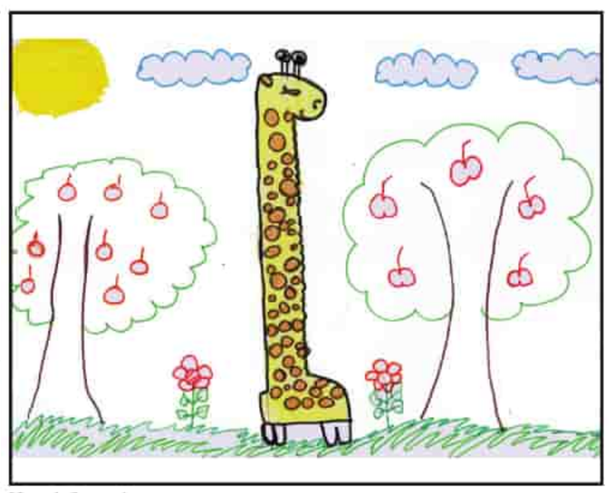
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessed by the Moon, your inner strength may improve. New business or career opportunities may arise and prove fruitful in the future. Couples may receive good news regarding childbirth. Love birds should communicate clearly to build a strong foundation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things are in your favor. Your work may be recognized, possibly leading to promotions. Stuck payments might be recovered, improving your business liquidity. Positive developments in legal matters are likely. Many partnership-related issues may also be resolved.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Good news may arrive regarding job opportunities. Job seekers may be more focused and succeed in competitive exams. Singles might receive promising marriage proposals. Couples could hear joyful news regarding childbirth.

KIDZONE

Chandana, Bengalru



Monal, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4^2+4-4(4-1)=
16+4-4(3)=
20-12=8

RIDDLER
The mysterious liquid is water. The rock is pumice or volcanic glass which floats in water and the wood was from the desert ironwood tree which is so dense that it actually sinks in water.

QUOTE UNCODE
People who know little are usually great talkers, while men who know much say little.

FAST FIVE

C	L	I	F	F
L	A	C	E	R
N	N	A	N	S
U	N	T	I	E
K	I	L	T	S

STRIKE OUT

A	B	A	S	E	■	W	O	R	K	S	H	Y	■	■
R	■	S	T	E	N	O	■	E	■	R	■	F	■	■
C	H	A	N	T	■	D	E	B	T	O	R	S	■	■
A	■	A	■	A	■	M	■	M	■	I	■	■	■	■
S	U	P	R	E	M	E	■	E	L	E	C	T	■	■
■	B	■	■	C	A	M	E	■	R	■	■	A	■	■
T	A	G	G	E	D	■	N	A	N	T	E	S	■	■
P	■	N	■	A	E	O	N	■	K	■	■	■	■	■
I	V	I	E	S	■	D	A	U	N	T	E	D	■	■
E	■	N	■	D	■	E	■	O	■	■	E	■	■	■
C	H	R	O	N	I	C	■	I	R	A	N	I	■	■
E	■	U	■	■	C	A	B	O	T	■	V	■	■	■
R	A	T	A	F	I	A	■	O	B	E	L	I	■	■

QUICK

O	V	E	R	T	U	R	N	■	P	L	O	T	■	■
O	■	N	■	C	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	■
H	A	I	F	A	■	N	O	T	A	B	L	E	■	■
S	■	F	■	N	■	U	■	A	■	O	■	R	■	■
I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	C	E	■	■	■
S	■	O	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	H	■	■
R	■	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	L	Y	■	O	■	■
E	■	■	U	■	■	V	■	■	R	■	■	C	■	■
L	E	G	I	O	N	N	A	I	R	E	S	■	■	■
B	■	N	■	G	■	I	■	P	■	N	■	X	■	■
B	H	U	M	I	K	A	■	A	N	N	O	Y	■	■
O	■	L	■	R	■	H	■	K	■	U	■	T	■	■
C	U	F	F	■	A	C	C	O	U	N	T	S	■	■

BULL'S EYE
amyl, army, malt, mart, mast, slam, smart, SMARTLY, tram

MENSA PUZZLE
F. In each shape, start at the bottom left and move up, then diagonally down to the right, and finally up the right hand column, in an N shape. Letters move through the alphabet in steps of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

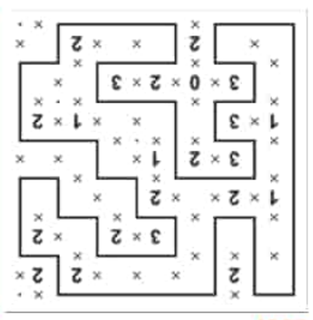
SUDOKU

1	3	6	5	4	7	9	8	2
4	2	8	3	6	9	1	7	5
9	7	5	8	2	1	3	6	4
6	4	3	9	8	2	5	1	7
2	1	9	4	7	5	6	3	8
8	5	7	6	1	3	4	2	9
7	8	4	1	5	6	2	9	3
3	6	2	7	9	4	8	5	1
5	9	1	2	3	8	7	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
V, VA, VIa, VIal, VItal, LaTVIa, TravaII.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 2 + 7 + 8 = 20
Medium
5 - 7 - 4 + 8 = 2
Hard
4 + 8 x 3 + 9 = 45

LOOP



KAKURO

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Plaint— A complaint has been lodged with police against Kamal Haasan for his recent remarks at the audio launch of his upcoming film 'Thug Life' in Chennai, where he claimed that 'Tamil gave birth to Kannada'

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Chowkidar teaser

The teaser of multilingual movie Chowkidar was released on YouTube channel, MRT Music. The teaser showcases Pruthvi Ambaar in a rugged and violent avatar and Dhanya Ramkumar in a deglamourised role. Chandrashekar Bandiyappa, who handled the megaphone for Kannada movies Aane Pataki, Rathavara, and Tarakasura, is the director for Chowkidar.

"Some incidents that took place around me inspired me to write the script for this movie. It is about the bonding between a father and his son. The movie also highlights the adverse impact of parents' possessiveness on their children," said Bandiyappa, who is a lawyer.

Bandiyappa said the movie is set to release in other languages too. "Sai Kumar plays the father. Pruthvi Ambar has also acted in a few Telugu movies," the director said. He said the movie's shooting was held in Bengaluru, Mysuru Mandya, and other beautiful locations across the state. "The shooting of the movie is completed. Post-production works are in progress. The film may release in a few months," he said.

Title dispute resolved

The dispute over the title of the multilingual movie Dude has been resolved amicably. The dispute arose over the title when Mythri Movies announced a similar title for its movie. As soon as the announcement was made, director Thej held talks with Mythri Movies and got the dispute resolved amicably.

"Now, there is no dispute over the title," said Thej. It is said Thej took the help and guidance of Raghavendra Rajkumar and Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce to resolve the issue. "Many film production companies have been facing similar problems after the pan-India movie making and distribution concept came into practice. Movie title issues have become a nuisance for producers," director Thej said.

He said he has a privilege of sharing screen space with late actor Shankar Nag. "As a child artiste, I have shared the screen with Shankar Nag. Many Kannada movies of Dr Rajkumar, Dr Vishnuvardhan were popular not only in Karnataka but also in other states. I have been associated with the Kannada film industry for quite a long time," he said. He also made it clear that his movie Dude has nothing to do with Anurag Kashyap-starred pan-India movie 8. "8, directed by Sujaya Shastry, is an emotional movie. My movie Dude is an out and out commercial movie which showcases how strong women are," he said.

Balanced approach

DP reveals in interview what kind of projects she wants to take up

Recently, Deepika Padukone has been at the centre of speculation surrounding Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film Spirit. Originally cast opposite Prabhas, she later exited the project, with Triptii Dimri stepping in as the female lead. Rumours claimed Deepika left over discomfort with bold scenes, which led to an angry tweet from Sandeep that many interpreted as a dig at her. Amid the controversy, Deepika has now opened up about the kind of collaborators she wants to work with.

In a recent interview with Harper's Bazaar, Deepika shared how she manages to balance her work and personal life. As a new mom, she explained that she trusts her instincts and focuses on what feels right to her, despite how challenging that can be. She emphasised the importance of tuning out external distractions and listening to her inner voice to find the answers she needs. Deepika also highlighted that working with people she enjoys collaborating with, staying close to family and friends, and being authentic are key factors that help her maintain balance.

> "Working with people I enjoy collaborating with, staying close to family and friends

On the work front, although Deepika has stepped away from Spirit, she has an exciting lineup ahead. After welcoming her daughter Dua Padukone Singh with husband Ranveer Singh last year, she is gearing up for a comeback with Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King, directed by Siddharth Anand. This project will also mark Shah Rukh's first film featuring his daughter Suhana Khan. Additionally, Deepika is set to reunite with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2, the much-anticipated sequel to Nag Ashwin's 2024 sci-fi epic Kalki 2898 AD. **— ETimes**

Deborra-Lee Furness speaks about 'betrayal'

Hollywood star Hugh Jackman's ex-wife Deborra-Lee Furness is not holding back as she spoke for the first time since filing for divorce from the actor. Furness and the 'Deadpool & Wolverine' star, 56, wed in 1996 before announcing their amicable separation in 2023 after 27 years of marriage. She called their split "a profound wound that cuts deep", reports 'People' magazine.

"My heart and compassion goes out to everyone who has traversed the traumatic journey of betrayal", the 69-year-old Australian actress said in a statement to the Daily Mail.

"However I believe in a higher power and that God/the universe, whatever you relate to as your guidance, is always working FOR us", Furness said. "This belief has helped me navigate the breakdown of an almost three-decade marriage".

As per 'People', the producer and philanthropist shared that the process has helped her as she "gained much knowledge and wisdom".

"Even when we are presented with apparent adversity, it is leading us to our greatest good, our true purpose. It can hurt, but in the long run, returning to yourself and living within your own integrity, values and boundaries is liberation and freedom", she said. Furness shared the "one thing" she's learned is "that none of this is personal". "We are all on our individual journeys and I believe that the relationships in our lives are not random..." she added. **—IANS**

For a cause

Kareena Kapoor took to social media to lend her voice to a powerful cause, backing a game-changing menstrual health initiative in Gujarat schools.

Applauding the state's efforts to create safe, inclusive spaces for students to learn about menstruation, the actress highlighted the importance of awareness over stigma, calling it a crucial step toward building a period-friendly world. On Wednesday, the actress shared on Instagram that, developed by the Government of Gujarat with support from UNICEF India, the initiative is transforming how young students—both girls and boys—learn about periods.

Kareena revealed that these specially designed corners offer engaging educational tools such as card games, role-play aprons, interactive models, and easy-to-understand booklets, making menstrual health education accessible and stigma-free. **—IANS**

Eye on the sky

Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared a heartwarming moment with her daughter Malti, as the adorable duo gazed at the clouds in a tender mother-daughter bonding moment.

Priyanka took to her Instagram stories, where she shared the beautiful moment with Malti on Instagram Stories. In the image, the two are seen enjoying being together and peacefully gazing up at the clouds. The actress is seen cradling Malti as they look up at a greyish sky filled with clouds.

The actress was earlier in Sicily, Italy and shared some glamorous titbits from the picturesque locale.

It was in 2018 when Priyanka got married to American popstar Nick Jonas in Rajasthan in a traditional Christian wedding followed by a Hindu ceremony. The two welcomed Malti in 2022 via surrogacy. On the professional front, Priyanka is all set to star in "Heads Of State," a project directed by Ilya Naishuller. In this action-packed film, Priyanka plays Noel Bisset, an MI6 agent who joins forces with John Cena and Idris Elba's characters to navigate a high-stakes situation after their diplomatic mission is disrupted. **—IANS**